

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 15, 17, 21, 27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Carlsen, U.S. Patent No. 2,739,398. Claims 17, 20, 21, 23, 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlsen, U.S. Patent No. 2,739,398, in view of Krause, U.S. Patent No. 5,142,802. Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlsen, U.S. Patent No. 2,739,398, in view of Strewer, 23 17 899.6.

Claims 18, 19, 24, 26, and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejections

Claims 15, 17, 21, 27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Carlsen, U.S. Patent No. 2,739,398.

Carlsen discloses an ironing board of the collapsible type. At one end the ironing unit 1 comprises a portion 3 covered with an ironing felt and carrying a suitable plate 4 or the like serving as a support for a hot flat iron, when in use. For receiving the flat iron 5 when the unit formed by the ironing board and the flat iron is to be stowed away, a drawer 10 is provided under the ironing board 1 at the end of portion 3. The drawer 10 is slidable under the board 1 in suitable guides 11 and is provided with a handle 12 and a suitable closure 13 for locking the drawer in a position under the board. (See col. 2, lines 1 to 21).

Claim 15 of the present application provides an ironing board comprising: an ironing board body having a blunt end; and an iron rest at the blunt end of the ironing board body, the iron rest being mounted on the ironing board body as a drawer and being pushable under the ironing board body after use.

An iron rest as understood by one of skill in the art reading the present specification is not just any place where one may rest a cool iron: if this were the case almost every surface in the world would be an iron rest. An iron rest is a specific area of an ironing board where one may

rest a hot iron during ironing, and is well known in the art as such. The present application also describes such iron rests with respect to the prior art for example, and to its own disclosure.

Carslen does not disclose an “iron rest mounted on the ironing board body as a drawer and being pushable under the ironing board body after use” as claimed in the present application. Carslen’s iron rest is a plate for hosting a hot iron during use. The drawer for storing the iron when the iron is not in use is not an iron rest as that term is understood by one of skill in the art and as used in the present application.

With further respect to claim 17, claim 17 provides “the iron rest includes a connector for a power cord.” Carslen does not show or teach a “connector” for a power cord.

With further respect to claim 21, claim 21 provides “the iron rest includes a recess for passage of an iron power cord.” Carslen discloses a flexible upright 7 mounted on the ironing board 1. The flexible upright is not a recess. Carslen does not show or teach “the iron rest includes a recess for passage of an iron power cord.”

With further respect to claim 29, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner did not specifically address the nature of the rejection with respect to claim 29.

Withdrawal of the rejections to the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections- Carslen in view of Krause

Claims 17, 20, 21, 23, 25 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carslen, U.S. Patent No. 2,739,398, in view of Krause, U.S. Patent No. 5,142,802.

Krause discloses a frame 2 is “arranged at the rear end of the ironing board 1.” This frame “has a center recess 3 and laterally projecting bars 8, 9 on the inner sides of which tabs 12 are provided. Krause discloses “two support rods, 5, 6 are supported in the area of the center recess of the frame 2, which support rods 5, 6 are each pivotal about a horizontal axis.” As shown in Fig. 4 in Krause, “the second support rod 5 is moved into an inclined position so that a steam iron 4 can be placed onto the frame 2.”

Neither Carslen nor Krause show an iron rest as claimed in claim 15.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or motivation to modify

the drawer of Carlen with the teachings of Krause. If the two references were somehow combinable (and it respectfully submitted they are not) one would have modified the plate of Carlsen, not the drawer.

Withdrawal of the rejections to dependent claims 17, 20, 21, 23, 25 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

With further respect to claim 23, claim 23 of the present application provides “the iron rest includes a support for the iron having an opening and having two support flaps opposite one another, the flaps oriented obliquely to a plane the ironing board body, and pointing downward.”

Claim 25 of the present application provides “the support flaps are articulated via hinges to opposite edges of the opening and are foldable into a plane of the opening.”

Krause does not show or teach “flaps oriented obliquely to a plane the ironing board body, and pointed downward” or “articulated via hinges to opposite edges of the opening.” As shown in Fig. 4 of Krause, support rods 5, 6 are pivoted up and out of the center of the plane so a steam iron can be placed on frame 2. Consequently, the support rods in Krause are not “pointed downward” or “articulated via hinges to opposite edges of the opening” as claimed in the present application.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections- Carlsen in view of Strewer

Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlsen, U.S. Patent No. 2,739,398, in view of Strewer, 83 17 899.6. Strewer discloses an iron rest.

Neither Carlsen nor Strewer show an iron rest as claimed in claim 15.

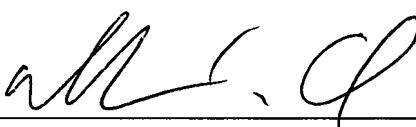
In addition, it is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or motivation to modify the drawer of Carlen with the teachings of Strewer. If anything, one would have modified the plate of Carlsen, not the drawer, with the teachings of Strewer.

With respect to the arguments above regarding claim 15, withdrawal of the rejections to dependent claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is also respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,
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